

### **REMARKS**

No new matter has been added. Present application was filed on September 12, 2003 with original claims 1-79. In the previous amendment, claims 1-4 and 40-42 were amended, claim 5 was canceled, and new claim 80 was added. By this amendment claim 1, 2, 40, 41 and 80 have been amended.

The claims remaining in consideration are claims 1-4 and 6-80. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 40 and 80 are independent claims. Claims 1-4, and 6-80 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,833,540 issued November 10, 1998 to Robert L. Miodunski, et al. ("Miodunski"). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Independent Claims 1, 40, and 80 have been amended to more clearly identify the subjected matter applicants regard as the invention.

Miodunski describes a cardless distributed video game system. The Miodunski system includes a plurality of gaming machines each having communication devices which send information to a central computer. The gaming machines are connected to the central computer via a network. As shown in Figure 1, the network may include an Ethernet 24 which communicates with gaming machines at various locations using modems 110, 120. Thus, the information transmitted to the central computer over the network is received from the gaming machines.

In contrast, the present invention is aimed at gaming machines, i.e., table games, which are not connected to the host computer. In particular, independent claim 1, 40, and 80 have been amended to be limited strictly to table games. The system includes a remote device and a host computer which are connected via a wireless network. The system of the present invention allows the user to view table rating information relating to a specific player on the remote device and to update the table rating information related to a player's play at the table game in the database on the host computer, by entering information onto the remote device.

Amended independent claim 1 sets forth a remote system for use with the gaming system for processing a table rating related to a player's play of a game at the table game.

The remote system includes a remote device and a host computer. The remote device, which is embodied in a handheld computer which may be carried by a user, receives table rating information related to the player input by the user (who is not the player). The host computer includes a database and a remote network interface coupled to the remote device via wireless connection for exchanging data between the host computer and the remote device.

The data includes table rating information related to the player. The data is stored in the database. The host computer allows the user to view, on the remote device, the table rating information related to the player. The host computer also allows the user to enter table rating information in response to observing the players play at a table game and to update the table information related to the player stored in the database.

Amended independent claim 40 sets forth a method for use with a gaming system. The gaming system includes at least one table game playable by a player. The method includes the steps of providing a host computer having a database for retrieving and storing data therein and providing a remote device embodied in a handheld computer which may be carried by user (who is not the player). The remote device is electronically coupled to the host computer by a wireless network. The method also includes the steps of sending a fillable form to the remote device for receiving table rating information over the wireless connection, allowing the user to fill out the fillable form with the identification information related to the player, and sending identification information related to the player to the host computer over the wireless connection. The method further includes the steps of allowing the user to view the table rating information related to the player on the remote device and allowing the user to enter table rating information in response to observing the player's play of the table game and updating the table rating information stored in the database.

Amended independent claim 80 sets forth a method for use with a gaming system including at least one table game playable by a player. The method includes the steps of providing a host computer including a database for retrieving and storing data therein and providing a remote device, embodied in handheld computer, which may be carried by user (who is not the player). The remote device is networked to the host computer over a wireless connection. The method also includes steps of allowing the user to open a table rating for the

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player by entering identification information related to the player on the remote device, sending the identification information related to the player to the host computer over the wireless connection, and allowing the user to enter or update table rating information stored in the database related to the player.

Applicants respectfully assert that Miodunski does not disclose a system or a method which allows a user, who is not the player, to enter information related to the player play of the game at the table game and storing that information or updating that information in a database on the host computer over a wireless network. Since Miodunski does not include each and every element of present invention, as set forth in the amended independent claim 1, 40 and 80, applicants respectfully assert that the 103 rejection of independent claims 1, 40 and 80 is improper and must be withdrawn.

Defendant claims 2-4, 6-39 and 41-79 are ultimately dependent upon allowable claim 1 or 40. Therefore for the reasons sets forth above, and based on their own merits, applicants respectfully assert that keep dependent claims 2-4, 6-39, and 41-79 are also allowable.

The proper fee for a two-month extension of time is submitted herewith. If any additional fees are necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 08-2789 in the name of Howard & Howard.

Respectfully submitted

**HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.**

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Date

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